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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 000224

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DEPT FOR WHA/CEN  
PANAMA FOR JENNIFER BUCALO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/30/2016

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SUBJECT: PLC WRESTS PLUM COMMISSIONS FROM FSLN IN NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY

REF: MANAGUA 0085

Classified By: Ambassador Paul Trivelli for reasons 1.4 (b and d)

11. (U) Weeks after the official date of the Nicaraguan National Assembly's annual re-incorporation of its Junta Directiva and commissions, the deputies finally appointed the new heads of the commissions. The PLC allied with the minority caucuses (bancadas) to wrest control of two important commissions from the Sandinistas: Economics and Tourism. The results left the PLC with 11 commissions, the FSLN with 9, the Azul y Blanco bancada will head two, and Camino Cristiano and ALN-PC received one each. Although each bancada was granted leadership of at least one commission, the outcome of the allocation was widely interpreted as a PLC/Azul y Blanco rebuke to the ALN-PC for resisting a Liberal compromise slate for the Junta Directiva that did not include an ALN-PC president (reftel).

12. (U) A list of appointments by party follows:

PLC: 10 permanent and 1 special commissions

Economics	Wilfredo Navarro
Transport	Oscar Moncada
Education	Orlando Mayorga
Justice	Noel Pereira
Municipalities	Jose Castillo Osejo
Human Rights	Maximino Rodriguez
Health	Guillermo Montenegro
Tourism	Miriam Fonseca
Ethics	Donald Lacayo
Indigenous Affairs	Leonel Panting
Special Commission for CAFTA	Carlos Noguera

FSLN: 8 permanent and 1 special commissions

Counter-narcotics	Ma. Lidia Mejia
Inter Parliamentary	Nathan Sevilla
Labor	Alba Palacios
Central American Integration	Rita Fletes
Women	Albertina Urbina Zelaya
Pop. and Development	Emilia Torres
Agricultural Reform	Marcelino Garcia
Special Commission on Poverty Reduction	Unassigned

Azul y Blanco: 2 permanent commissions

Foreign Affairs  
Environment

Miguel Lopez Baldizon  
Jaime Morales Carazo

CCN: 1 permanent commission

Defense & Government                      Delia Arellano

ALN-PC: 1 special commission

Inter Institutional                      Augusto Valle  
Affairs

13. (C) COMMENT: On the surface, this slate, like the Junta Directiva, appears to be a significant improvement over 2005.

Most of the PLC appointees, with a few exceptions such as Donald Lacayo, are moderate and committed to working with the USG. On the other hand, the new chief and deputy chief of the PLC bancada, Lilliam Tabora and Carlos Gadea, are ardent Arnoldistas. Alba Palacios, a Sandinista agitator, has retained her position as president of the Labor commission, which could exacerbate problems for the Bolanos administration if the FSLN continues to use its control of the labor guilds to pressure the government in an election year. Delia Arellano headed the Defense and Government commission in 2004 and was very helpful in securing National Assembly cooperation for MANPADS destructions in that year. She has committed to playing the same role in 2006. Emboffs will meet with the new Assembly leadership to discuss and promote legislative agenda items of concern to the USG.

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